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Identical letters dated 24 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following urgent and momentous information:

The illegal international coalition led by the United States of America has committed a number of new massacres against innocent Syrian civilians. On 13, 16 and 21 July 2018, its warplanes bombarded residential areas in the villages of Baghuz Fawqani and Susah in the hinterland of the city of Albu Kamal in the governorate of Dayr al-Zawr. They also targeted civilians who were leaving the villages to flee the crimes of the terrorist group Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), killing 32 civilians, most of them women and children.

The illegal coalition continues to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity against the Syrian people. It supports terrorism and uses terrorists and separatist militias to achieve its objectives, thereby belying any claims made by the United States of America and the Governments of other States members of the illegal coalition about the protection of civilians in armed conflict, the rights of refugees and displaced persons, respect for international humanitarian law, and protection of and respect for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria and the interests of its people.

The coalition's crimes highlight the fact that the United Nations and, in particular, the Security Council have failed to take any action to implement international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They have failed to put an end to the activities of that illegal coalition and its hostile schemes to target the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic in order to prolong the crisis there.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities and fulfil its mandate for the maintenance of international peace and security, to condemn these massacres, and to take immediate action to stop them and prevent their recurrence. The Security Council must work to put an end to the hostile and illegal presence on Syrian territory of United States forces and other foreign forces, and prevent those hostile occupying forces from implementing their schemes to support terrorism, undermine the security and stability of the Syrian Arab Republic, and prolong the crisis there.

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I should be grateful if the present identical letters could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Minister Plenipotentiary

United Nations S/2018/734

Security Council

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Identical letters dated 24 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the fifty-third report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/724).

First and foremost, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regrets that the authors of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continue to take a politicized and negative approach to the Syrian Arab Republic and its institutions. It deplores the fact that, in the report under consideration, the authors continue to ignore its concerns and the questions that it posed to the relevant Secretariat officials and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in its responses to the fifty-first and fifty-second reports and to other previous reports.

The current report, like the previous ones, is far removed from the humanitarian situation in Syria and does nothing to alleviate the plight of Syrians or improve their resilience. The monthly reports have become a mere political tool. They are detrimental to the reputation and credibility of the United Nations in that they have been used by OCHA to serve the interests of certain Western States and their regional proxies.

What follows is an overview of the position of the Syrian Government with respect to the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the report under consideration:

- Day by day, through the efforts of its institutions, with the support of its people and with international backing from the true friends of Syria, who believe in the principles of international law, the Syrian State has achieved important successes on the ground. It is making progress towards liberating Syrian territory from the armed terrorist groups that have spread out among the civilians, used them as human shields, exploited them, recruited their children and appropriated the humanitarian assistance that was intended for them. Indeed, the achievements and momentous efforts of the Syrian national institutions have made it possible to support the Syrian people and ensure that United Nations assistance reaches them.
- Deplorably, the authors of the report do not recognize those achievements, which have had a positive effect by restoring stability to parts of Syria, fighting

terrorism and improving the humanitarian situation of Syrians. What is truly unfortunate is that the authors persist in misleading global public opinion by misrepresenting those achievements and their effects. They make claims regarding the loss of life and displacement of civilians, and other mendacious allegations that come from notorious politicized actors, particularly the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), whose reports endorse accounts and information provided by armed terrorist groups. As one example among many, OHCHR and its sources, as well as the representatives of OCHA, persistently fail to inform Member States that the attacks on public hospitals in Dar'a governorate, which are referred to in paragraph 16 of the report under consideration, were carried out by the armed terrorist groups. The authors refer to those groups as "Non-State armed opposition groups", a term that is both inaccurate and inconsistent with the principles of international law and international humanitarian law.

For some time, the Syrian Government has been firmly convinced that the monthly reports have come to reflect the views of Syria's enemies at home and abroad. They pose a threat to the authority and credibility of the United Nations and are inconsistent with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization.

- The Syrian State's counter-terrorism efforts belong in the context of its constitutional mandate and are congruent with the principles of international law and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. The United Nations ought to respond to the situation by increasing its support for Syrians in accordance with humanitarian principles. In particular, it should coordinate with the national authorities of Syria, rather than with the so-called local councils, which are in fact artificial entities subservient to the terrorist organizations and secessionist actors. The authors continue to promote those groups in an unprofessional manner, concocting the claim that they have an important role to play in ensuring humanitarian access.

- The Syrian Arab Republic finds it regrettable that the authors persist in making the same mistakes as in previous reports. In particular, they refer to the armed terrorist groups deployed in Syria, such as those active in Idlib, Dar'a and Qunaytirah as "non-State armed opposition". However, it has been established that the armed terrorist groups are supported by the Governments of well-known States that have involved their fighters, funds and intelligence services in this terrorist war to destroy Syria.

- The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on it by the European Union, the United States of America and other parties are currently the greatest obstacle impeding efforts to provide Syrians' basic needs and improve their livelihood and humanitarian conditions. In the report under consideration, as in previous reports, the authors have deliberately and disgracefully persisted in ignoring that sensitive but vital issue, even though the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs has promised to examine it seriously and thoroughly. The authors of the monthly reports also ignore the United Nations reports issued by the representatives of the United Nations and international organizations active in Syria, which show that those measures have hampered domestic and international humanitarian work in Syria. For instance, in his report and in his latest briefing before the International Syria Support Group, the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights has stressed that persisting with the measures would have a dangerous effect on the main sectors involved in the humanitarian response for Syrians, particularly health, education, energy, electricity, water and financial transfers.

- In the report under consideration, the authors endeavour to blur mandates and competences by discussing the political situation and by using numerous politicized terms. The Syrian Arab Republic rejects that approach. Such terms have nothing to do with the authors' mandate or the topic of the report, which is supposed to be about the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian Government is surprised that the authors persist in addressing issues that bear no relation to the humanitarian situation, while completely avoiding another issue that directly affects the humanitarian situation in Syria, namely the unilateral coercive economic measures imposed on the Syrian people by the European Union, the United States of America and other parties. That situation reflects the pressure brought to bear on the authors by the Governments of States that have intervened to detrimental effect in the internal affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic. These are the very same Governments that imposed the economic, financial and banking embargo on Syria.

- The authors take a clearly and unacceptably politicized approach by holding the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic responsible for shortfalls in humanitarian access. However, they neglect to mention that the Syrian State has protected civilians in the context of its operations to free them from terrorism. Most recently, the Syrian State has taken action to free southern Syria from terrorism and restore stability and security to civilians in the area. It has provided the necessary support to displaced persons, not a single one of whom has died. It has guaranteed the displaced persons' safety through humanitarian corridors, and returns them to their areas as soon as the operations to free those areas from terrorism have come to a close. The authors' approach raises genuine questions as to whether certain United Nations officials are displeased that the Syrian State has resumed its role in all parts of Syria after defeating the terrorists, or that the unity of the territory and people of Syria has been preserved in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

- In order for all areas of Syria — including, most recently, southern Syria — to be swiftly liberated from terrorism, the United Nations must respond promptly by providing immediate support that is not politicized or discriminatory. OCHA and donors must abandon their lackadaisical approach to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, which has been evident in other regions of Syria. The Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes the need for increased humanitarian support in order to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of Syrians, especially given the modest level of international financing: to date, only 35 per cent of needs have been met. In their review conferences, donors have tied their funding pledges to political conditions that are incompatible with the principles of humanitarian work. They refuse to fund the restoration of basic service facilities to foster the resilience of Syrians and return Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons to their areas in a safe and dignified manner. The authors neglect to mention these important matters or the so-called conditionalities imposed by providers of funding. This is yet another sign of their lack of seriousness and professionalism in addressing the humanitarian situation in Syria.

- The Syrian State's operations to liberate Syrians in the south of the country from terrorism underscore the fact that the OCHA officials, along with the Governments of the United States of America, Britain, Canada and certain European States have not sought to fulfil the needs of Syrians displaced from the Syrian-Jordanian border. Those Governments and other actors have been more concerned with protecting the armed terrorist groups that have spread across those areas, particularly the members of the terrorist organization known as the White Helmets, who have acted as the logistical and operational arm of the terrorist Nusrah Front, not to mention other terrorist organizations such as

Al-Qaida, and facilitated their terrorist acts against Syrians and the stability of the country and the region. The Governments of those States recently took the disgraceful decision to guarantee the exit of members of members of the terrorist White Helmets organization in coordination with the Israeli occupation and Jordan. They have appealed for the terrorists to be resettled in Germany in coordination, indeed collusion, with OHCHR. The decision effectively rewards that organization and other terrorist organizations associated with it for their members' crimes against Syrians and the institutions of their country. The group has fabricated crime scenes and falsified evidence and information to mislead global public opinion concerning the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria. It has thus created pretexts for the American-French-British aggression on Syria. Moreover, the United States Government recently decided to provide $6.6 million in funding to the terrorist White Helmets organization with a view to ensuring the continuity of its activities in support of the terrorist Nusrah Front and to maintaining its presence in Syria. That measure was taken in lieu of providing assistance to the specialized agencies of the United Nations: the United States of America has stopped its financial contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and other international humanitarian organizations. These bitter realities point to international involvement in internal Syrian affairs, and provide further evidence of the nature of the plot to which Syria has been subjected since 2011.

- The Syrian Arab Republic condemns the authors' deliberate failure to mention the effects of the aggression perpetrated by the so-called international coalition and its militias, alongside, Turkey, France and Israel, against Syria and its infrastructure and environment. Unfortunately, the authors have flagrantly tried to cover up the destruction caused by the parties that have attacked and occupied Syria. In paragraph 8 of the report, they provide a contrived and artificially positive image of the situation in the Syrian governorate of Raqqah, which has been almost completely destroyed by the so-called international coalition and its militias.

- The Syrian Arab Republic finds it regrettable that the authors have shamefully caved to pressure from the Governments of certain Western States by promoting cross-border aid. Such aid has been shown to be useless and to prevent aid from reaching civilian beneficiaries in Syria. In one way or another, it provides direct support to the terrorists who gain control of the aid, which has thus played a part in perpetuating terrorist activities in Syria.

- In the light of the foregoing considerations, there is a pressing need for the United Nations humanitarian structure to work seriously to regain the trust of the Syrian Government by adopting a new United Nations approach to the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, one that is based on objectivity, transparency and impartiality. That will be difficult to achieve so long as the United Nations humanitarian framework continues to misrepresent the achievements of the Syrian State and its efforts to meet its people's needs, and so long as the authors of the report continue to indulge the Governments of Western States by ignoring their support for terrorists and their proxies and agents in Syria, and so long as those Governments continue to exploit the humanitarian situation of Syria for their own narrow political agendas.

- The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that, in order to foster respect for the principles of humanitarian work and ensure that the humanitarian needs of Syrians are met now that Syria is on the verge of full liberation from terrorism, the Security Council should stop issuing these monthly reports — which many

see as a waste of time, money and human resources — and replace them with quarterly reports that are written in a professional and credible manner.

I should be grateful if the present identical letters could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Minister Plenipotentiary

United Nations S/2018/735

Security Council

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Identical letters dated 24 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, and in response to the letter dated 12 July 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of Germany and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2018/700), I should like to state the following:

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns in the strongest terms the ongoing, systematic campaigns of disinformation that are being waged against the Syrian Arab Republic by certain Governments, which also continue to interfere blatantly in the internal affairs of Syria. Those Governments are not content with repeatedly attacking the sovereignty of Syria; providing various forms of support to the armed terrorist groups that are attacking the people and infrastructure of Syria, as well as public and private facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic; and imposing coercive, unilateral economic measures against the Syrian people. They have begun to circulate new fallacies and baseless allegations that are aimed at impeding the efforts of the Syrian Government to rebuild the country, ensure that the daily needs of the Syrian people are met and put in place the necessary conditions for the voluntary return of Syrian nationals to their country.

The Government Syrian Arab Republic deeply regrets that several States have expressed their support for the above-mentioned letter, although those States understand that the allegations set out therein are incorrect. There is no longer any justification for those States to ignore the facts that have been revealed by the defeat dealt to terrorism and its supporters in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Although the adoption of Act No. 10 is a sovereign act and a purely internal Syrian matter, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to clarify some aspects of that Act, in order to refute the false allegations that are made in the above-mentioned letter.

First, with respect to the allegation that the "law [...] threatens, if implemented, to expropriate the private property of millions of displaced Syrians, depriving them of their homes and land. As a consequence, this law would significantly hinder their return home.":

Article 15 of the Constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic enshrines and upholds individual and joint ownership. The laws of Syria, including Act No. 10, do not exceed the bounds of the Constitution and the principles established therein. Act No. 10 guarantees that all owners whose properties are recorded in the official

registers will retain those properties. Indeed, the Act provides that the administrative unit shall request the cadastral authorities to compile a list of property owners and rights holders that will serve as the basis for the work of the committees established pursuant to the provision of Act No. 10. Property holders will be compensated with shares in the planning zone that are of equivalent value. Ownership is therefore upheld by the law. Property will continue to be registered in the name of its owner, who can choose to sell the property; be given a plot, or a portion thereof in the case of partners, in the planning zone; or sell the property at public auction. The legal occupant (owner or lessee) shall be given priority in respect of obtaining alternative housing within the same planning zone. The foregoing refutes the allegation that displaced Syrians are being deprived of their homes and lands.

Second, with respect to the allegation that Act No. 10 "will prevent many Syrians from claiming ownership, resulting in the uncompensated expropriation of their property. This, in turn, will have significant repercussions for the future return of millions of Syrian internally displaced persons and refugees.":

Act No. 10 does not contain any provision that would deprive owners of their property or expropriate it. Quite the contrary, the Act calls for the establishment of a dispute resolution commission, headed by a judge counsellor appointed by the Minister of Justice, to consider property disputes. The commission is very much like a court in that its decisions may be appealed against in the courts. Citizens, whether in Syria or abroad, may follow up on the status of their projects or properties that are before this commission and other commissions through their relatives, up to the fourth degree, or through a legal agent, or in person, as they see fit.

Third, with respect to the allegation that the law is "part of a comprehensive policy to alter the sectarian, social, economic and political landscape of Syria and the fabric of local communities.":

This allegation is not only invalid, but also politically and morally baseless. Moreover, the provision of Act No. 10 stipulating that the legal occupant (owner or lessee) shall be given priority in respect of obtaining alternative housing serves as a legal rebuttal to that allegation. Regardless of whether he is the owner, the legal occupant shall be given housing in the same planning zone, thereby ensuring that the social fabric is preserved.

Fourth, with respect to the allegation that "Damascus has systematically destroyed the land registry and cadastre records in opposition strongholds and in areas where it has regained control. [...] Following the destruction of records, the regime first forcefully displaced the local civilian population and then placed groups close to Damascus in those buildings. Among these groups are a number of militias from third countries".:

The Syrian Arab Republic will not stoop so low as to give a political response to that allegation, which is replete with lies, and respond to the undiplomatic language that is used therein. The legal response to this claim is that a very small proportion of land records were damaged in attacks carried out by terrorist groups. It should be noted that more than 90 per cent of those records have been electronically archived and backup copies are held at the Directorate for Cadastral Affairs. A special law regarding the reissuing of property documents was adopted: Act No. 33 (2017) concerning the reissuing of completely or partially destroyed property documents. This demonstrates that the Syrian Government maintains property records and strives to preserve the social fabric. Ownership records are maintained and electronically archived, and laws have been enacted concerning the reissuing of property documents in accordance with due process.

Fifth, with respect to the claim that "[i]n the absence of a stable security situation and an inclusive political environment that allows displaced Syrians to establish their ownership or occupancy rights and safely return to their homes, implementing such a law will lead to the arbitrary confiscation of property and denies the individual property rights of millions of Syrians, rights that are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.":

Property registration and preserving ownership rights in Syria have not been affected at all by the security situation and the political climate in the State. Those purely civilian functions are performed by a credible institution with a 92-year track record. That institution operates in accordance with a stable legal framework and rules and regulations that do not allow the conditions or any actor to interfere with its work, particularly given that the Constitution clearly and explicitly protects and preserves ownership rights. As stated above, individual and joint ownership in the Syrian Arab Republic is safeguarded by the Constitution, specifically article 15 thereof, and Act No. 10 does not contain any stipulations that concern the confiscation of land or would deprive owners of their property or expropriate it. The Act affords owners, whether they are in the Syrian Arab Republic or abroad, many straightforward ways to prove ownership. An owner will not be required to do anything because the administrative unit will safeguard his ownership rights on his behalf if the ownership document in his possession is recorded in the official register, or if he has obtained a definitive court judgement concerning a property right that is recorded in the official register or a similar register that is maintained by a public body legally authorized to maintain ownership records. The owner may register the court judgement whenever he pleases. In addition, such registration will be effective from the date on which the lawsuit that gave rise to the judgement was recorded in the registry (in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Code and the Property Register Act).

In the absence of a document establishing ownership, the property owner may instruct a relative up to the fourth degree (father, son, brother, paternal uncle, maternal uncle, paternal cousin, maternal cousin) to file, on his behalf, a statement of ownership with the administrative unit, in order to preserve his rights. Such a statement can also be filed by any person that the owner authorizes to act on his behalf. The owner may also designate another person, regardless of where that person may be, to act on his behalf and authorize that person to replace the first proxy with whomsoever he wishes, for the purpose of following up on legal procedures pending with the dispute resolution commission established by Act No. 10. The owner himself may also file the ownership document with the dispute resolution commission when it is in session, regardless of whether the filing deadline had passed, and with the Syrian courts any time after the planning zone has been completed. The courts must consider the lawsuit and issue a judgement in accordance with the law.

Sixth, with respect to the allegation that Act No. 10 "clearly contradicts and grossly undermines the United Nations-led efforts to find a political solution, jeopardizes future reconciliation and flagrantly defies Security Council resolution 2254 (2015), in which the Council underscored the critical need to build conditions for the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their home areas...":

Civil laws in Syria are proposed and enacted by institutions that are independent and impartial, take into account the expectations and needs of Syrian society, and are managed by specialized legal and technical staff who work in cooperation with State ministries and administrative units, and their relevant bodies.

In a statement issued on 3 July 2018, the Syrian Government called upon all citizens who had been forced to leave the country because of war and terrorist attacks to return to Syria, in view of the liberation of most of the areas that had been under

the control of terrorists. In that statement, the Syrian Government reiterated that it is responsible for ensuring the security and safety of its citizens and providing them with the necessities of a decent existence. The Government also reiterated that international and humanitarian organizations have a responsibility to help ensure that Syrian citizens can return voluntarily to and reside in their country. Many Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan have begun returning to their towns and villages thanks to the great assistance that the Syrian Government has provided, despite the difficult economic conditions that have been caused by the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Syrian people by certain States, some of which are signatories of the above-mentioned letter.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Minister Plenipotentiary

United Nations S/2018/736*

Security Council

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24 July 2018

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Letter dated 19 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to draw your attention to the twelfth annual joint consultative meeting between members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, held in New York at Headquarters on 19 July 2018.

During the consultative meeting, the members of the two councils agreed upon a joint communiqué (see annex).

I transmit this joint communiqué to you in my capacity as Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, the Security Council body that engaged with African Union colleagues on the annexed text.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tekeda **Alemu**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons on 2 August 2018.

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Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué

Twelfth annual joint consultative meeting between members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, 19 July 2018, New York

1. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council held their 12th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting in New York on 19 July 2018.

2. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the mandate of the Peace and Security Council with regard to the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa as provided for in the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. They also reaffirmed the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in the pacific settlement of local disputes.

3. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council discussed matters of peace and security in Africa, in particular, the situations in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. They seized the opportunity of the informal meeting held on the margins of the joint consultative meeting to exchange views on the institutional reforms currently under way both at the UN and the AU and their significance for enhancing the partnership between the UN and the AU.

4. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council also assessed the progress made in further strengthening the cooperation between the two organizations in the area of peace and security, including the holding of the annual meeting of the leadership of the UN and the AU. They expressed their strong support for the cooperation between the two organizations and their leadership as well as the joint visit undertaken in April 2018 by the UN Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Smaïl Chergui, to the Central African Republic and Sudan, which illustrated on the level of their enhanced partnership regarding peace and security in Africa. In that context, and in light of the importance of close UN-AU cooperation, they affirmed the intention to consider joint visits of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to conflict situations in Africa. The modalities of such visits will be discussed and agreed upon on a case-by-case basis by the two Councils.

5. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council commended the crucial contribution and role of the African Union in efforts aimed at preventing, managing and resolving conflicts and crises in Africa and discussed options for funding the African Union peace and security activities. They recalled UN Security Council resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017), which stress the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council and under the Security Council's authority, consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter. In this regard, they took note of the annual report of the Secretary-General on UN-AU Cooperation, which details the work done on

strengthening mandating, management, oversight and accountability of AU-led peace support operations. They also acknowledged the development of operations mandated or authorized by the AU. They also recognized the need to strengthen the AU's operational and financial frameworks to enable AU missions to appropriately plan, finance, conduct and evaluate their efforts. They also welcomed AU's plan to finalize its human rights and conduct and discipline frameworks, which are critical to achieve greater accountability, transparency and compliance with international human rights law, international humanitarian law, as applicable, and with the UN conduct and discipline standards.

6. In the context of the partnership between the UN and the AU, the members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council also discussed the African Union's goal of Silencing the Guns in Africa by the year 2020, with a view to building a conflict-free continent. In this regard, they exchanged views on possible cooperation in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020. They also agreed to strengthen efforts in conflict prevention.

On the situation in South Sudan

7. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council expressed serious concern over the overall situation in South Sudan. They reaffirmed their belief that only a political solution to the conflict in South Sudan will bring sustainable peace and further noted that all the parties must urgently demonstrate a strong will to an inclusive and revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) in order to end the long-standing conflict in the country. They called upon all South Sudanese parties to focus on the interest of the people of South Sudan and secure a future for the children of the country.

8. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council welcomed the efforts of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and regional initiatives, including through the face-to-face meetings between H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit and H.E. Dr. Riek Machar, to resolve the outstanding issues at the High-Level Revitalization Forum. They welcomed the Khartoum Declaration Agreement of 27 June 2018 and urged the South Sudanese parties to make further compromises on the outstanding issues that result in a credible, inclusive and sustainable agreement and expeditiously conclude the revitalization process. They remain convinced that the establishment of the Hybrid Court in South Sudan would contribute towards addressing the issue of impunity and promoting justice and reconciliation.

9. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council strongly condemned the repeated violations of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians, and Humanitarian Access (ACOH) by the parties as reported by the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM) and the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) and expressed serious concern at reports that there already had been violations of the permanent ceasefire announced by the parties in Khartoum in June 2018. They underscored the need to hold the violators of the ACOH accountable and to ensure that there is an end to the culture of impunity for those responsible for perpetuating violence.

10. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council paid tribute to the troop and police contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), for the sacrifices being made for the restoration of peace, security and stability in South Sudan. They also

commended the Special Representatives of the AU and the UN for their contribution in support of efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the crisis in South Sudan.

11. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council strongly condemned all forms of physical and bureaucratic impediments preventing the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. They noted that 107 humanitarian workers have died since the conflict began, making South Sudan a particularly challenging environment for humanitarian workers and called on all parties to stop the targeting of those delivering life-saving aid immediately.

12. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council encouraged continued close collaboration between the United Nations, the African Union and IGAD and reaffirmed their collective commitment in the search for lasting peace, security and stability in South Sudan.

On the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo

13. The members of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council expressed concern at the continued deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the DRC. While taking note of key milestones in the electoral process being reached, they expressed concern about remaining challenges to foster greater confidence in the process. They called upon all political parties, their supporters and other political actors to remain committed to the 31 December 2016 Agreement, which is the only viable path out of the current political situation.

14. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council urged all political parties to continue to reject violence of any kind, to exercise maximum restraint in their actions and statements, so as not to further inflame the situation, and to address their differences peacefully. In particular, they called on the Government of DRC and all DRC actors to reject violence and violent statements. They reiterated that effective, swift and sincere implementation of the December Agreement, including the Agreement's confidence-building measures as well as respect for fundamental rights and the electoral timeline are essential for a peaceful and credible electoral process, a democratic transition of power and the peace and stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They called on the government of the DRC, the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) and all stakeholders to work together towards the holding of elections on 23 December. They reiterated their commitment to take appropriate measures against all Congolese actors, and any others, whose actions and statements impede the implementation of the agreement and the organization of the elections.

15. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council underscored that it is essential that the government of DRC and all DRC actors fulfil the commitments in the Agreement of 31 December 2016 and underscored the need to do everything possible to ensure that the elections take place with the requisite conditions of transparency, credibility and inclusivity, including the full and effective participation of women at all stages, as well as the importance of youth engagement. They also underscored that elections must lead to a peaceful and democratic transfer of power, in accordance with the Constitution, the Political Agreement of 31 December 2016, United Nations Security Council resolutions 2348 (2017) and 2409 (2018), as well as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

16. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council urged the Government of DRC to urgently implement confidence-building measures as per the Political Agreement of 31 December 2016 and ensure that elections are held on 23 December 2018 as per the electoral calendar.

They noted the progress made in preparation for the elections with the support of MONUSCO, while acknowledging the remaining challenges still to be addressed. They called on the CENI to continue their cooperation with MONUSCO throughout the electoral process. They further welcomed the commitment by the United Nations, the African Union, Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the International Conference on the Great Lakes (ICGLR), the European Union (EU) and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (IOF) to support the electoral process and the establishment of a joint team of experts from these organizations and encouraged the CENI to make use of their support.

17. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council called for enhanced coordination between the UN, the AU, the ICGLR, the SADC, the EU and the OIF in their support to the implementation of the 31 December 2016 Agreement and the electoral process.

18. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council paid tribute to the bravery of troop and police contributing countries to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), who sacrificed their lives for the restoration of peace, security and stability in the DRC.

19. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council commended the efforts deployed by the AU and the international community in support to the DRC's efforts to tackle the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak, in May and June 2018, in the country.

20. The members of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council agreed to convene their 13th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting and 4th Informal Joint Seminar in 2019, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at a date to be mutually agreed upon.

United Nations S/2018/737

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 July 2018

Original: English

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 14 June 2018 on his Good Offices (S/2018/610) and of 6 July 2018 (S/2018/676) on the United Nations operation in Cyprus,

Noting that the Government of Cyprus is agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions on the island it is necessary to keep the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) beyond 31 July 2018,

Echoing the Secretary-General's firm belief that the responsibility for finding a solution lies first and foremost with the Cypriots themselves, and *reaffirming* the primary role of the United Nations in assisting the parties to bring the Cyprus conflict and division of the island to a comprehensive and durable settlement,

Welcoming the commitments set out in the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders' Joint Statement of 2 April 2017 on the basis of the Joint Declaration adopted on 11 February 2014, the reconvening of the Conference on Cyprus under United Nations auspices in June 2017, further welcoming the participants' commitment to support the process towards a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus, and the support provided by the Secretary-General and Secretary-General's Special Representative Elizabeth Spehar,

Recalling resolution 1179 (1998); and the importance attached by the international community to all parties engaging fully, flexibly and constructively in negotiations to secure a settlement and *noting* that last year's Conference on Cyprus did not result in an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in relevant Security Council resolutions, *urging* the sides to renew their commitment to such a settlement, and *stressing* that the status quo is unsustainable,

Welcoming the appointment of UN Consultant Jane Holl Lute, and urging the sides and all involved parties to demonstrate political will and engage constructively with UN consultations,

Noting the need to advance the consideration of and discussions on military confidence-building measures, *calling for* renewed efforts to implement all remaining confidence-building measures, and for agreement on and implementation of further joint and unilateral steps to build trust between the communities, including new confidence-building measures,

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Reaffirming the importance of continued crossings of the Green Line by Cypriots, and encouraging the opening by mutual agreement of other crossing points,

Convinced of the many important benefits, including economic benefits for all Cypriots, that would flow from a comprehensive and durable Cyprus settlement, *urging* the two sides and their leaders to foster positive public rhetoric, and *encouraging* them clearly to explain the benefits of the settlement, as well as the need for increased flexibility and compromise in order to secure it, to both communities well in advance of any referenda,

Highlighting the importance, both political and financial, of the supporting role of the international community, and in particular that of all parties concerned in taking practical steps towards helping the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to renew their commitment to a settlement under United Nations auspices; *taking note* of the assessment of the Secretary-General that the security situation on the island and along the Green Line remains stable, and *urging* all sides to avoid any action, including violations of the military status quo, which could lead to an increase in tension, undermine the progress achieved so far, or damage the goodwill on the island,

Recalling the Secretary-General's firm belief that the situation in the buffer zone would be improved if both sides accept and actively assist UNFICYP in the implementation of the aide-memoire in use by the United Nations,

Noting with regret that the sides are withholding access to the remaining minefields in the buffer zone, and that demining in Cyprus must continue, *noting* the continued danger posed by mines in Cyprus, *noting also* proposals and discussions as well as positive initiatives on demining, and *urging* rapid agreement on facilitating the recommencement of demining operations and clearance of the remaining minefields,

Commending the work of the Committee on Missing Persons, *highlighting* the importance of intensifying its activities, and therefore the need to provide all information required as expressed in the press release of the Committee on Missing Persons on 28 July 2016 regarding review of archival materials, *noting* that the remains of 1,132 missing persons, from a total of 2002, have not yet been positively identified, *urging* the opening up of access to all areas expeditiously to allow the Committee to carry out its work, and *trusting* that this process will promote reconciliation between the communities,

Agreeing that the active participation and leadership of women is essential to the political process and can contribute to making any future settlement sustainable, *recalling* that women play a critically important role in peace processes as recognized in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and related resolutions; recalling Resolution 2242 (2015) and its aspiration to increase the number of women in military and police contingents of United Nations peacekeeping missions; and *further recalling* the importance of the active participation of youth, consistent with Resolution 2250,

Urging the sides to step up their efforts to promote intercommunal contacts, reconciliation and the active engagement of civil society, including Bi-Communal Initiatives and development projects where the two communities can work together and jointly benefit, and the encouragement of cooperation between economic and commercial bodies and to remove all obstacles to such contacts, while also noting various initiatives to bring together particular sectors or actors on both sides for dialogue, including the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process,

Stressing the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Recalling resolution 2378 (2017) which requests the Secretary-General to ensure that data related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, including performance data, is used to improve analytics and evaluation of mission operations, based on clear and well identified benchmarks, and emphasizing the need to regularly review all peacekeeping operations including UNFICYP to ensure efficiency and effectiveness,

Noting the importance of transition planning in relation to the settlement, including the need to consider adjustments as appropriate to the mandate of UNFICYP, force levels and other resources and concept of operations, taking into account developments on the ground and the views of the parties,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General and Special Representative Elizabeth Spehar,

Echoing the Secretary-General's gratitude to the Government of Cyprus and the Government of Greece for their voluntary contributions to the funding of UNFICYP, and his request for further voluntary contributions from other countries and organizations, and *expressing* appreciation to Member States that contribute personnel to UNFICYP,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

1. *Welcomes* the progress of the leaders-led process since 11 February 2014 and the efforts of the leaders and their negotiators to reach a comprehensive and durable settlement, *notes* the lack of progress towards a settlement since the conclusion of the Conference on Cyprus and *urges* the sides and all involved participants to seize the important opportunity presented by the appointment of UN Consultant Jane Holl Lute to conduct in-depth consultations on a way forward, by engaging constructively in those consultations, and renewing their political will and commitment to a settlement under United Nations auspices;

2. *In this regard, calls upon* the sides, specifically the leaders of the two Cypriot communities, and all involved parties to actively engage with openness and creativity, fully commit to a settlement process under UN auspices, use the UN consultations to restart negotiations, and avoid any actions that might damage the chances of success;

3. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General (S/2018/610 and S/2018/676);

4. *Reaffirms* all its relevant resolutions on Cyprus, in particular resolution 1251 (1999) of 29 June 1999 and subsequent resolutions;

5. *Recalls* Security Council resolution 2398 (2018), and *calls upon* the two leaders to:

(a) Put their efforts behind further work on reaching convergences on the core issues;

(b) Intensify work with the Technical Committees with the objective of enhancing intercommunal contacts and improving the daily lives of the Cypriots;

(c) Improve the public atmosphere for negotiation to secure a settlement, including by focusing public messages on convergences and the way ahead, and delivering more constructive and harmonized messages; and by refraining from rhetoric that could make a successful process more difficult to achieve; and

(d) Increase and strengthen the participation of civil society in the process as appropriate, with a view to mobilizing greater support for the settlement process at large;

6. *Welcomes* the Secretary-General's willingness, and expresses its full support, for his Good Offices to remain available to assist the sides, should they jointly decide to re-engage in negotiations with the necessary political will, as stated in his report of 28 September 2017; and *requests* the Secretary-General to maintain transition planning in relation to a settlement, guided by progress in negotiations, and encourages the sides to engage with each other, as well as with UNFICYP and the United Nations Good Offices mission in this regard;

7. *Urges* the implementation and further development of confidence-building measures based on a shared vision for the future and joint actions, and *looks forward* to agreement on and implementation of further such mutually acceptable steps, including military confidence-building measures and the opening of crossing points already agreed upon and others, and *urges* the sides to promote intercommunal contacts, exchange and cooperation thereby contributing to a conducive environment for a settlement;

8. *Stresses* the importance of the full and effective participation of civil society and women in particular at all stages of the peace process and *urges* their involvement in the development and implementation of post-conflict strategies for sustainable peace, including by revitalizing the Gender Committee and considering the Secretary-General's proposal to conduct a gender-sensitive socioeconomic impact assessment;

9. *Further stresses* the importance of the full and effective participation of youth; recognizes the important work of the Bi-Communal Technical Committee on Education and calls on both sides to facilitate intercommunal youth contacts;

10. *Welcomes* all efforts to accommodate the Committee on Missing Persons' exhumation requirements as well as the joint appeal for information issued by the two leaders on 28 May 2015, and *calls upon* all parties to provide more expeditious, full access to all areas and to respond to the Committee's request for archival information on possible burial sites, given the need to accelerate the Committee's work;

11. *Expresses* its full support for UNFICYP and *decides* to extend its mandate for a further period ending 31 January 2019;

12. *Supports* the need to improve the mission's capacity for liaison and engagement with the sides across all components, including people to people contacts, to keep stability and calm, and thereby contribute effectively to conditions conducive to progress in a settlement process; and requests the Secretary-General to increase the number of women in UNFICYP as well as to ensure the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of operations;

13. *Calls* on both sides to continue to engage, as a matter of urgency and while respecting the mandate of UNFICYP, in consultations with UNFICYP on the demarcation of the buffer zone and implement the United Nations aide-memoire, with a view to reaching early agreement on outstanding issues;

14. *Calls* on the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkish forces to restore in Strovilia the military status quo which existed there prior to 30 June 2000;

15. *Calls* on both sides to allow access to deminers and to facilitate the removal of the remaining mines in Cyprus within the buffer zone, and *urges* both sides to extend demining operations outside the buffer zone;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on his Good Offices and the outcome of UN Consultant Jane Holl Lute's consultations by 15 October 2018; further requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on implementation of this resolution by 10 January 2019, including progress on confidence-building measures, and to keep the Security Council updated on events as necessary;

17. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to standardize a culture of performance in UN peacekeeping, calls on him to continue his efforts to develop an integrated performance policy framework, and to apply it, once completed and endorsed, including to UNFICYP;

18. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by UNFICYP to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and *urges* troop and police-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including the conduct of predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

19. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations A/72/940–S/2018/738

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 July 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda items 35, 40 and 72

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Promotion and protection of human rights

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 24 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following urgent matter.

The continuing aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan has led to the temporary occupation of a significant part of my country's territory, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region, the seven adjacent districts and some exclaves. The war has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people, ruined cities, towns and villages in Azerbaijan and resulted in the forcible expulsion of more than 1 million Azerbaijanis from their homes and properties.

The international community has consistently deplored, in the strongest terms, the use of military force against Azerbaijan and the resulting occupation of its territories, as reflected in Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), thus rejecting any actions violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and refusing to recognize as legitimate the situation created through such actions.

However, the impunity still enjoyed by the perpetrators of the crimes committed in the course of the aggression contributes to Yerevan's growing sense of permissiveness. As a result, despite the ongoing political process towards the earliest settlement of the conflict, flagrant violations by Armenia of international humanitarian law and international human rights law continue.

Since the beginning of the conflict, Armenia has extensively practised the taking and holding of hostages and mistreatment and summary execution of prisoners of war and other captives. Thus, at the beginning of July 2018, 3,875 citizens of Azerbaijan were registered as missing as a result of the conflict, including 707 civilians. Among

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the civilians, 67 are children, 265 are women and 324 are elderly persons. It has been established that 871 of the 3,875 missing persons were taken as either prisoners of war or hostages, including 267 civilians, of whom 29 are children, 98 are women and 112 are elderly persons.

A clear list of the missing citizens of Azerbaijan has been submitted to Armenia through the International Committee of the Red Cross and is being regularly updated. However, Armenia has failed to account either properly or at all for the missing persons within its control and to conduct a prompt and effective investigation into the arguable claims that such persons have been taken into its custody and have not been seen since.

On 11 July 2014, the Armenian armed forces brutally killed an Azerbaijani civilian, Hassan Hassanov, and captured Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev, who were attempting to visit the graves of their parents in the occupied Kelbajar district of Azerbaijan. The Armenian side not only did not release these civilians but also fabricated charges against them and unlawfully sentenced Mr. Asgarov to life imprisonment and Mr. Guliyev to 22 years in jail, while the body of Mr. Hassanov was returned to Azerbaijan, with the facilitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, after almost three months, on 2 October 2014.

The images of Mr. Asgarov and Mr. Guliyev before and after their capture, which the Armenian side made available to the public to exert psychological pressure on their families and relatives, clearly demonstrate that they were subjected to torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment.

Illegitimately depriving Mr. Asgarov and Mr. Guliyev of liberty and keeping them in captivity despite the appeals of the international community are yet further proof of contempt for human rights, intolerance and hatred at the core of Armenia's policy of aggression, occupation and ethnic cleansing.

The Republic of Azerbaijan expects that the United Nations, including its relevant human rights mechanisms and procedures, will not remain indifferent to the fate of Mr. Asgarov and Mr. Guliyev, who are suffering from serious health problems, and will spare no effort to ensure their immediate and unconditional release and reunification with their families.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 40 and 72, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/739

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 July 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 25 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for 24 and 25 July 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) D. **Polyanskiy**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 25 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (24 July 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported eight incidents of gunfire: four in Aleppo Governorate and four in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any incidents of gunfire.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,872 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,810.66 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 43 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 86,002 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (25 July 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported seven incidents of gunfire: five in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and two in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any incidents of gunfire.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,872 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,810.66 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 178 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 86,180 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/740

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 July 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 25 July 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2402 (2018), by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Yemen until 28 March 2019.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that, after consulting the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014), I have appointed Henry Thompson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), armed groups expert, to the Panel.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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United Nations S/2018/741

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 July 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 26 July 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 2424 (2018) of 29 June 2018, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo until 1 August 2019.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that, after consulting with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I have appointed the following experts:

Nelson Alusala (Kenya), natural resources/finance
Ledio Cakaj (Albania), armed groups
Virginie Monchy (France), humanitarian affairs
Bart Vanthomme (Belgium), armed groups
David Zounmenou (Benin), arms.

I have reappointed Zobel Behalal (Cameroon), natural resources/finance expert, to also serve as the Coordinator of the Group until 27 March 2019, when he will reach the maximum period of service under the applicable rules and regulations of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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United Nations S/2018/742

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 July 2018

Original: English

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions and statements of its President on the situation in Somalia,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, and unity of Somalia, and *underscoring* the importance of working to prevent destabilising effects of regional crises and disputes from spilling over into Somalia,

Condemning Al Shabaab attacks in Somalia and beyond, expressing serious concern at the ongoing threat posed by Al Shabaab, and *underlining* its concern that Al Shabaab continues to hold territory and extort revenue in Somalia,

Expressing outrage at the loss of civilian life in Al Shabaab attacks, and paying tribute to the bravery and sacrifices made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali security forces personnel in the fight against Al Shabaab, and *recognising* the need to preserve the gains made through their commitment,

Reiterating its determination to support efforts to reduce the threat posed by Al Shabaab in Somalia, and *underlining* its commitment to support an inclusive Somali-led political peace and reconciliation process,

Condemning the continued violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in Somalia, in particular those involving the deliberate targeting of civilians and the recruitment of children,

Welcoming the positive contributions that the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) has made to supporting the gains made by AMISOM and the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), and *underscoring* the importance of an effective partnership between the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and Member States in Somalia,

Recognising that the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has the primary responsibility to protect its citizens and build its own national security forces, *noting* that these forces should be inclusive and representative of Somalia and act in full compliance with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Welcoming the development of a conditions-based transition plan with clear target dates for the progressive transfer of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security institutions and forces, and calling for its swift finalisation of the

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detailed transition and implementation with full participation from all stakeholders, *recalling* the critical importance of accelerating the implementation of the National Security Architecture agreement between the FGS and the Federal Member States (FMSs), including decisions to define the composition and roles of Somalia's security forces and to integrate and provide federal support to regional forces, in order to provide the foundation for a successful transition, and *welcoming* the renewed commitment of the FGS and the FMSs to accelerating security sector reform at the Somalia Partnership Forum in Brussels on 16–17 July,

Reaffirming the strong commitment of international partners to support the FGS and FMSs in establishing under the National Security Council and Regional Security Councils a capable, accountable, acceptable and affordable Somali-led security sector as set out in the Security Pact adopted by Somalia and international partners on 11 May 2017 at the London Somalia Conference,

Recognising that a more stable Somalia is of vital importance to ensuring regional security,

AMISOM

Commending the contribution of AMISOM to lasting peace and stability in Somalia, noting its critical role in improving the security situation and in providing the security to enable peacebuilding and statebuilding progress in Somalia, including two national political processes, acknowledging the important contribution of AMISOM and the AU in support of the Somali political process, *expressing* its appreciation for the continued commitment of troops, police and equipment to AMISOM by the Governments of Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, and recognising the significant sacrifices made by AMISOM forces,

Recalling the Conclusions on Children and Armed Conflict (S/AC.51/2017/2),

Taking note of the Joint AU-UN Review of AMISOM, as requested in paragraph 23 of resolution 2372 (2017), the Report on the Ten Year Lessons Learned from AMISOM 2007–2017, and the African Union Peace and Security Council's communiqué of 27 June 2018 on the situation in Somalia and AMISOM,

Taking note of the Report of the AU-UN Special Envoys on AMISOM financing and its finding that in the immediate term voluntary contributions are required at an adequate level,

Expressing its support for a transfer of security tasks from AMISOM to the Somali security forces, in line with the National Security Architecture, in a gradual and conditions-based manner, to ensure that the hard won security gains are preserved,

Recalling the decision in paragraph 5 of its resolution 2372 (2017) to reduce the level of uniformed AMISOM personnel by 30 October 2018, *regretting* the need to delay that reduction to 28 February 2019, and *stressing* that there should be no further delays to implementation of future decisions to reduce the level of uniformed AMISOM personnel,

Encouraging the AU to evaluate regularly AMISOM's performance including the performance of troop and police contingents to ensure that the mission has the skills and flexibility to carry out its mandate effectively, including through performance evaluation linked to clearly identified benchmarks and standards,

Welcoming the AU's investigation of allegations of sexual violence against some AMISOM troops, *underlining* the importance of the AU implementing the

recommendations of its findings, taking action to prevent further abuses, and in line with resolution 2272 (2016),

Expressing concern over reports of pro-Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) elements in Somalia and the security implications of the situation in Yemen for Somalia,

Expressing grave concern at the ongoing multifaceted humanitarian situation, and commending AMISOM's efforts to create conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance,

Recalling its Presidential statement S/PRST/2011/15, recognising the adverse effects of climate change, ecological changes and natural disasters among other factors on the stability of Somalia, including through drought, desertification, land degradation, and food insecurity, and *emphasising* the need for adequate risk assessment and risk management strategies by governments and the United Nations relating to these factors,

Determining that the situation in Somalia continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

AMISOM

1. *Emphasises* that the long term objective for Somalia, with the support of its international partners, is that Somali security institutions and forces assume full responsibility for Somalia's security, and in this regard *recognises* that AMISOM remains critical to security during this transition to allow for the Somali security institutions and forces to build their capacities;

2. *Agrees* with the Secretary-General that conditions in Somalia are not appropriate for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the benchmarks for deployment under continuous review;

3. *Underlines* that the increases in the force strength decided in resolutions 2036 (2012) and 2124 (2013) were to provide short term enhancement to AMISOM's military capacity, and as part of an overall exit strategy for AMISOM, after which a decrease in AMISOM's force strength will be considered in light of progress on the ground;

4. *Welcomes* in this regard the recommendation of the AU-UN Review to continue the gradual and phased reduction and reorganisation of AMISOM's uniformed personnel in line with the implementation of the transition plan in order to provide a greater support role to the Somali security forces in line with the National Security Architecture as they progressively take the lead for security in Somalia, *expresses* its intention to follow closely the implementation of the transition plan and progress towards the handover of security responsibility from AMISOM to Somali security institutions with the aim of Somali security institutions taking the lead by December 2021, *further welcomes* the FGS's commitment and steps to implement the transition plan, including through the conduct of joint operations in order to become the primary security provider in Somalia, and *underscores* the need for transition of security responsibility to take into consideration the security situation in each location;

Priorities and tasks

5. *Decides* to authorise the Member States of the AU to maintain the deployment of AMISOM until 31 May 2019, including a minimum of 1,040 AMISOM

police personnel including five Formed Police Units, and to reduce the level of uniformed AMISOM personnel to a maximum level of 20,626 by 28 February 2019 unless the Security Council decides to accelerate the pace of the reduction taking into account the capabilities of the Somali security forces thus far, and *stresses* that there should be no further delay in the reduction of the level of uniformed AMISOM personnel beyond 28 February 2019;

6. *Further decides* that AMISOM shall be authorised to take all necessary measures, in full compliance with participating States' obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and in full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, to carry out its mandate;

7. *Decides* to authorise AMISOM to pursue the following strategic objectives:

(a) Enable the gradual handing over of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security forces contingent on abilities of the Somali security forces and political and security progress in Somalia, with the aim of Somali security institutions taking the lead by December 2021;

(b) Reduce the threat posed by Al Shabaab and other armed opposition groups, including through mitigating the threat posed by improvised explosive devices;

(c) Assist the Somali security forces to provide security for the political process at all levels as well as stabilisation coordinated with the Community Recovery and Extension of State Authority and Accountability (CRESTA/A), reconciliation and peacebuilding in Somalia;

8. *Decides* to authorise AMISOM to carry out the following priority tasks to achieve these objectives:

(a) Maintain a presence in the sectors set out in AMISOM's Concept of Operations, prioritising the main population centres;

(b) To assist, as appropriate, the Somali security forces to protect the Somali authorities to help them carry out their functions of government, their efforts towards stabilisation coordinated with CRESTA/A, reconciliation and peacebuilding, and security for key infrastructure;

(c) To protect, as appropriate, its personnel, facilities, installations, equipment and mission, and to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel, as well as of United Nations personnel carrying out functions mandated by the Security Council;

(d) To conduct targeted offensive operations, including jointly with the Somali security forces, against Al Shabaab and other armed opposition groups;

(e) To secure key supply routes including to areas recovered from Al Shabaab, in particular those essential to improving the humanitarian situation, which may include commercial goods essential to meeting the basic needs of civilians, and those critical for logistical support to AMISOM, underscoring that the delivery of logistics remains a joint responsibility between the United Nations and AU;

(f) To mentor and assist Somali security forces, including combat readiness mentoring for Somali military forces, and mentoring and training for Somali police, in close collaboration with UNSOM and in line with the National Security Architecture and the transition plan;

(g) To reconfigure AMISOM, as security conditions allow, in support of the transition plan and in favour of police personnel within the authorised AMISOM personnel ceiling;

(h) To receive on a transitory basis, defectors, as appropriate, and in coordination with the United Nations and the Federal Government of Somalia;

9. *Requests* the AU to keep the Security Council regularly informed, through the Secretary-General, on the implementation of AMISOM's mandate, including its reconfiguration in support of the transition plan, and any performance issues, such as effective command and control, responses to attacks on civilians, adequate equipment and information, which may adversely affect effective mandate implementation, and to report to the Council, through the provision of oral updates and no fewer than three written reports, every 120 days with the first written report not later than 15 November 2018, and *further requests* that the first written report contains a reconfiguration plan detailing the modalities of the reduction in the level of uniformed personnel set out in paragraph 5 of this resolution;

10. *Requests* that the AU continues to ensure that AMISOM is configured to conduct the full range of mandated tasks effectively, including improving operational coordination among AMISOM contingents and ensuring effective consultation with appropriate Somali and international partners on operational decision-making and, under the authority of the Force Commander, strengthening command and control structures capable of operating jointly with Somali security forces;

11. *Requests* the AU and the UN to conduct, in collaboration with partners, a joint Operational Readiness Assessment of AMISOM, to be completed by 15 September 2018, in order to identify capacities and requirements within the authorised troop ceiling set out in paragraph 5, including to support the implementation of the transition plan, and provide the baseline for a revised Concept of Operations that provides clear target dates for the progressive transfer of security responsibility from AMISOM to the Somali security institutions and forces;

12. *Welcomes* in this regard the intention of the AU to develop a new Concept of Operations for AMISOM by 1 November 2018, and *requests* the AU to develop this concept in close collaboration with the United Nations and Federal Government of Somalia;

13. *Recalls* its request that the AU generate the specialised units set out in the annex to resolution 2297 (2016), in particular the Mission Enabling Units, and reiterating the importance that all force enablers and multipliers operate under the command of the Force Commander, *welcomes* efforts to identify specific requirements, and requests that these are generated without delay, and *requests* that the AU provide regular updates on this force generation in its regular reports through the Secretary-General;

14. *Stresses* the critical need to source fully functioning and mission appropriate contingent-owned equipment including force enablers and multipliers as provided for in paragraph 6 of resolution 2036 (2012) either from existing AMISOM troop-contributing countries or other Member States, and *urges* the AU urgently to generate the remainder of the force enablers within the existing troop ceiling;

15. *Stresses* that AMISOM's civilian component should be fully operational to support AMISOM's military and police tasks and improve coordination between the United Nations and the AU in Somalia, *further stresses* that AMISOM's civilian component should focus its efforts to support the transition and eventual drawdown in line with the transition plan and the aim of Somali security forces taking the lead for security responsibility by December 2021;

16. *Reiterates* its request in paragraph 18 of resolution 2111 (2013) that AMISOM support and assist the FGS and FMSs in implementing the total ban on the export of charcoal from Somalia, while noting AMISOM's strategic objectives and priority tasks;

17. *Underlines* the continued importance of AMISOM forces carrying out their mandate in full compliance with participating States' obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including with regard to the protection of civilians and on the basis of specific recommendations made during the Joint Review, and cooperating with UNSOM and UNSOS in implementing the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to Non-United Nations security forces (HRDDP), and *calls upon* AMISOM and the AU to ensure monitoring of and prompt and thorough investigations into and reporting on allegations of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, as well as continuing to ensure the highest standards of transparency, and conduct and discipline;

18. *Welcomes* the progress made by AMISOM in complying with human rights and international humanitarian law, and *urges* troop and police contributing countries to accelerate efforts to cooperate with the AU and UN to enhance the effectiveness of measures and mechanisms to prevent and address non-compliance, including on the basis of specific recommendations of the Joint Review, including selection and screening of AMISOM personnel;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any support provided to non-United Nations security forces is provided in strict compliance with the HRDDP and to include progress made in implementing the policy in the Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council, including through the mitigating measures and mechanisms as set out by the Joint Review, and further requests UNSOS to strengthen its capacity to ensure the implementation of the HRDDP with regard to its support for AMISOM and Somali security forces;

20. *Welcomes* the work of the Civilian Casualty Tracking Analysis and Response Cell (CCTARC) as requested in resolutions 2093 (2013) and 2124 (2013), *underlines* the importance of making the CCTARC fully operational and effective without further delay, and in this regard *urges* the full support of troop and police contributors to the CCTARC, in collaboration with humanitarian, human rights and protection actors, and *underlines* the importance of ensuring information is shared with relevant actors including the United Nations, is integrated into AMISOM reporting, and feeds into operational guidelines and plans;

21. *Welcomes* AMISOM's zero tolerance stance on sexual exploitation and abuse, *calls on* the AU and troop-contributing countries to take appropriate steps to prevent and investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, including screening personnel and undertaking risk assessments and training, and to hold perpetrators accountable and repatriate units where there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation or abuse by those units, and *further encourages* the AU to cooperate with the UN on all aspects related to addressing sexual exploitation and abuse;

22. *Welcomes* and *strongly encourages* the deployment of female uniformed personnel in AMISOM by the Troop and Police Contributing Countries, and urges AMISOM to ensure the meaningful participation of women across its operations and to integrate a gender perspective throughout delivery of its mandate;

23. *Welcomes* the intention of the Secretary-General to conduct a technical assessment of AMISOM by 31 January 2019, working closely with the AU, as well as key international stakeholders and the FGS, to review AMISOM's reconfiguration

in support of the transition plan, including the implementation of the reduction in the troop ceiling set out in paragraph 5, the progress towards achieving the strategic objectives in paragraph 7, its capability to conduct the priority tasks set out in paragraph 8, the alignment of UNSOS logistical support to AMISOM priorities and the transition plan, and to make recommendations on improved consultation with AMISOM regarding its support package and the progressive transition from AMISOM to Somali security responsibility including over the electoral period, taking into account the capacities of the Somali security forces;

24. *Expresses* its intention to consider further uniformed personnel reductions as security conditions and Somali capabilities and capacities allow, in line with the transition plan and the aim of Somali security institutions leading security responsibility by December 2021, and in light of the technical assessment set out in paragraph 23;

Support and Partnership

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to work closely with the AU in supporting the implementation of this resolution, encourages continued close collaboration between UNSOM, UNSOS and AMISOM at all levels, including through the Senior Leadership Coordination Forum, in order to strengthen the joint senior leadership decision-making between UNSOM and AMISOM and ensure operational efforts are aligned with a common set of strategic priorities, and enhance coordination efforts on the ground within the Comprehensive Approach to Security (CAS) mechanism to utilise each other's comparative advantage and maximise impacts for the FGS and FMS, further requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide technical and expert advice to the AU on the planning, deployment and strategic management of AMISOM in line with the mandate of the United Nations office to the AU, and *reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General, in view of the need to increase AMISOM's efficiency, to enhance the provision of technical advice to the AU through existing United Nations mechanisms;

26. *Stresses* the importance of early and sustained coordination of all joint operations, as well as inclusive planning of stabilisation and other follow up activity in newly recovered areas, including the focus areas identified in the transition plan, and of taking full account of the need to protect civilians and mitigate risk before, during and after any military operation, and encourages the strengthening of joint planning and operational management mechanisms in order to prioritise available resources;

27. *Further stresses* the importance of effective joint planning and implementation of the transition of primary security responsibility to the Somali security institutions between the FGS, FMSs, the United Nations, AU and donors, and *requests* the Secretary-General to report on progress towards transition in his reports on the situation in Somalia to this Council;

28. *Agrees* with the Secretary-General that oversight and accountability, in particular compliance with HRDDP in the context of United Nations support to the transition of responsibilities between AMISOM and Somali security forces, will be the cornerstone of the partnership between the United Nations, the AU, the FGS and the FMSs;

29. *Urges* the full implementation of the Force Commander's directive, in particular on the protection of children's rights during and after operations and to comply with the standard operating procedures for the reception and handover of children separated from armed groups in Somalia signed by the FGS;

30. *Welcomes* the support of the international community for peace and stability in Somalia, in particular the European Union for its substantial contribution in supporting AMISOM, as well as support from other bilateral partners for both AMISOM and the Somali security institutions and forces, emphasises the importance of new contributions, including from new and existing donors from the international community, the African Union Peace Fund, the private sector, civil society and other donations, in order to share the financial burden of supporting AMISOM;

31. *Reiterates* its call for new and existing donors to support AMISOM through the provision of additional funding for troop stipends, equipment, and technical assistance for AMISOM, and contributions to the United Nations Trust Funds for AMISOM and the SNA, calls upon the AU to consider how to provide sustainable funding for AMISOM, underlines the AU's call for its Member States to provide financial support to AMISOM, and *urges* AMISOM to reconfigure within the timeline and guidelines of this resolution to increase performance and effectively apply limited donor resources to the authorised uniformed personnel ceiling;

32. *Stresses* the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for AU-led peace support operations authorised by the Security Council and under the Security Council's authority consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter, encourages the Secretary-General, AU and partners to continue efforts to explore in earnest funding arrangements for AMISOM, bearing in mind the full range of options available to the United Nations, AU, the European Union, and to other partners, and considering the limitations of voluntary funding, in order to establish secure future funding arrangements for AMISOM;

Somali security forces

33. *Recognises* that the primary responsibility for security lies with the Somali people and institutions, and in this regard, welcomes the historical political agreement on the National Security Architecture by the FGS and FMSs on 17 April 2017 and the development of the transition plan, commends their renewed commitment to security sector reform, and underscores the need to implement these commitments urgently, and to accelerate reform;

34. *Underlines* the continued importance of swift implementation of the National Security Architecture, delineating roles and responsibilities of Somalia's security institutions, agreeing on governance and oversight structures and identifying capability gaps in order to guide AMISOM and donors' security sector assistance priorities and signalling areas of cooperation with the international community in order to develop Somali-led security institutions and forces, both military and civilian, that are capable, affordable, acceptable, and accountable, and *emphasises* the vital importance of the rule of law and of security forces acting at all times in full compliance with applicable obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law including with respect to the protection of civilians, ending and preventing recruitment, re-recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, and addressing conflict-related sexual violence;

35. *Stresses* the importance of the FGS and FMSs accelerating the strengthening and improved coordination of the Somali security institutions, and enhancing efforts to move towards the eventual handover of security responsibilities to the Somali security services and withdrawal of AMISOM;

36. *Welcomes* efforts to implement the Operational Readiness Assessment of the SNA and to complete an Operational Readiness Assessment of the Somali security forces outside the SNA that are formally part of the National Security Architecture, led by the FGS with the active participation of the FMSs, and together with AMISOM and the United Nations and other international partners to determine numbers,

capacities, locations and compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, including age assessment mechanisms and screening for child soldiers, existence of accountability mechanisms, and level of vetting and training, and including the Somali police as well as other Somali security capacities, in order to hand over specific security tasks, identify capacities for joint operations, determine infrastructure, logistical capacity, equipment and training gaps, and provide a baseline for further security sector reform efforts, and to inform a revised Concept of Operations for AMISOM;

37. *Welcomes* the commitment of international partners to provide additional and more effective support through the Comprehensive Approach to Security (CAS) implementation mechanisms agreed at the London Somalia Conference, including more coordinated delivery of mentoring, training, equipment, capacity building, and remuneration of police and military forces consistent with the Security Pact agreed at the London Somalia Conference and reiterated at the Somalia Security Conference in December 2017 and the Somalia Partnership forum in July 2018, and in this regard *emphasises* the important role of UNSOM to assist the FGS in coordinating international donor support for security sector assistance;

38. *Welcomes* the support already provided by the international community and bilateral donors to the Somali security sector, encourages partners to further enhance their support to national and state-level institutions for the development of the Somali security sector, in line with the agreed National Security Architecture, including logistical support, *calls upon* new partners to come forward to support this development, and *reiterates* the importance of increased coordination amongst all partners as agreed in the Security Pact;

39. *Underscores* the need for international partners to closely align their efforts in a fully coordinated manner to enable Somalia to achieve a comprehensive approach to advance sustainable security, and the need to implement commitments through the implementation mechanism set out in the Security Pact on 11 May 2017;

40. *Underlines* that it is essential that military operations are followed immediately by Somali efforts to establish or improve governance structures in recovered areas and by the delivery of basic services, including security, through the National Security Council and Regional Security Councils;

41. *Recognises* that the threat of Al Shabaab and other armed opposition groups will not be defeated by military means alone, and in this regard *encourages* the FGS, with the support of UNSOM, to continue to take a comprehensive approach to security, in line with the Security Pact and the New Partnership Agreement for Somalia, and to implement Somalia's National Strategy and Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in order to strengthen Somalia's capacity to prevent and counter terrorism;

42. *Welcomes* the agreements reached by the FGS and FMSs to establish basic policing services across Somalia, as part of the new federal policing model, *requests* UNSOM to continue to support implementation of the federal policing model, especially at the FMS level, *encourages* donors to support relevant national and state-level institutions in its implementation, welcomes capacity-building for the maritime police force in line with resolution 2246 (2015) by the FGS with the support of UNSOM, and *looks forward* to progress towards its implementation;

43. *Commends* the FGS and the FMSs for their commitment to increase the transparency and accountability of security sector financial management, and the payment of salaries and support requirements as set out in the Security Pact, and in line with the national constitution and resource sharing mechanisms and looks forward to progress on this commitment;

44. *Calls on* the FGS, the FMSs, AMISOM and UNSOM to work to ensure that women and girls are protected from sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, which can significantly exacerbate and prolong situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security, and that survivors are supported and perpetrators held accountable, and urges the FGS, with the support of the United Nations, to accelerate the implementation of the Joint Communiqué and the National Action Plan to combat sexual violence in conflict, and *further calls on* the Somali security forces to take appropriate steps to prevent and investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving their personnel;

Logistical Support

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide a logistical support package for UNSOM, AMISOM and 70 AMISOM civilians, on the basis set out in operative paragraph 2 of resolution 2245 (2015), and for 10,900 Somali security forces, who are formally part of the National Security Architecture, on joint operations with AMISOM, in line with the transition plan, on the same basis as such support was provided to the SNA under operative paragraph 2 (f) of resolution 2245 (2015), and *further requests* the Secretary-General to expedite the necessary procedures to implement resolution 2245 (2015);

46. *Stresses* the need for responsive and effective field support and in this regard welcomes UNSOS's efforts, in collaboration with AMISOM, to implement measures aimed at strengthening accountability and efficiency in the management of resources and finances in order to better align the delivery of logistical support to AMISOM's priorities and activities and *requests* the Secretary-General to report on progress in his regular reporting;

47. *Welcomes* the signing of a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the Governments of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda, with the United Nations, and the AU, and urges remaining troop and police contributing countries to conclude negotiations on the trilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) without delay;

Somalia

48. *Welcomes* the FGS's active engagement with the Universal Periodic Review Process and encourages implementation of all accepted recommendations;

49. *Expresses concern* at continued violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in Somalia, *underscores* the need to end impunity, uphold human rights and to hold accountable those responsible for such violations and abuses, *welcomes* the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, and *encourages* the FGS to approve the appointment of the Commissioners, and implement fully the Action Plan of its Human Rights Roadmap, including by implementing legislation aimed at protecting human rights and investigating and prosecuting perpetrators of crimes involving violations or abuses of human rights, violations of international humanitarian law, and conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence;

50. *Reiterates* its continued concern at the high number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), including persons newly displaced by floods and the drought, expresses its serious concern at the ongoing forced evictions of IDPs in Somalia, *stresses* that any eviction should be consistent with relevant national and international frameworks, *encourages* the FGS to conclude ratification of the Kampala Convention and implement is provisions in full including by passing legislation to ensure the rights of IDPs during all phases of displacement, urges the

FGS and all relevant actors to strive to provide concrete durable solutions for internal displacement, and *calls on* the FGS and all relevant actors to strive to create the conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and IDPs, including by offering IDPs access to services, security and protection in collaboration with the affected communities and humanitarian actors, and with the support of the international community;

51. *Recalls* its resolution 2417 (2018) and *expresses* grave concern at the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Somalia and its impact on the people of Somalia, *commends* the efforts of the United Nations humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian actors to deliver life-saving assistance to vulnerable populations, *condemns* the increase in attacks against humanitarian workers and calls on all parties to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, facilities and assets; *further condemns* any misuse or obstruction of humanitarian assistance, and reiterates its demand that all parties allow and facilitate rapid, safe and unimpeded access for the timely delivery of aid to persons in need across Somalia in line with humanitarian principles, including by dismantling illegal checkpoints and removing administrative hurdles, *underlines* the importance of proper accounting in international humanitarian support, and *encourages* national disaster management agencies in Somalia to scale up capacity with support from the United Nations to take a stronger leadership role in coordination of humanitarian response;

52. *Underlines* the importance of respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians, especially women and children, and respect for relevant Security Council resolutions, by all actors in Somalia;

53. *Reaffirms* the important role of women and youth in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, stresses the importance of their full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and *acknowledges* the important contribution that civil society can make in this regard;

54. *Strongly condemns* all violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict in Somalia, including the increase in the number of cases of recruitment of children, attacks on schools, and of sexual violence perpetrated against children, demands that the parties to the conflict cease immediately all violations and abuses against children and *calls on* the FGS to hold perpetrators accountable and to implement fully the Convention of the Rights of the Child 1989, including by ratification of or accession to its Optional Protocols, and the Action Plans signed in 2012, the recently adopted Somali National Army Command Order on the Protection of Children's Rights before, during and after operations, and the Standard Operation Procedures on the handover of children, and underscores the need to strengthen the legal and operational framework for the protection of children and to strengthen existing vetting mechanisms;

Reporting

55. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council regularly informed on the implementation of this resolution in his regular reports requested in paragraph 28 of resolution 2408 (2018);

56. *Requests* the Secretary-General to update the Security Council on the status of the Somali security forces and their readiness to perform security tasks taking into consideration the outcome of the Operational Readiness Assessment, and on the impact of operations on the level of threat from Al Shabaab, and *further requests* the AU to report through the Secretary-General on progress on the reconfiguration of AMISOM in support of the transition plan, including the progress made to implement the reduction of the troop ceiling as set out in paragraph 5, and

progress towards achieving AMISOM's objectives, in its regular reports to the Security Council in order to maintain the momentum of transition to Somali security forces;

57. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

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Letter dated 27 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for 26 and 27 July 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) D. **Polyanskiy**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 27 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (26 July 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 10 incidents of gunfire: 8 in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and 2 in Aleppo Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has reported one incident of gunfire in Aleppo Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation over the past 24 hours. In Marrat, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, 650 food parcels with a total weight of 2.8 tons were distributed as humanitarian aid.

In total, 1,873 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,847.46 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 209 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 86,353 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (27 July 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 14 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 7 in Ladhiqiyah, 6 in Aleppo and 1 in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any incidents of gunfire.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,873 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,813.46 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to nine residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 86,362 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.